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The Mother of Christopher Helme

By Richard LeBaron Bowen

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THE MOTHER OF CHRISTOPHER HELME

By Richard LeBaron Bowen, of Rehoboth, Mass.

Christopher Helme,* the early settler of Warwick, Rhode Island, and the ancestor of the well-known Rhode Island family of Helme, first appears at Exeter, New Hampshire, more than three hundred years ago, where, in 1639, together with Christopher Lawson, William Wentworth (afterwards Elder and founder of the famous New Hampshire family), and the Rev. John Wheelwright, he signed the Exeter Combination. How long Christopher Helme remained at Exeter is not known, but we do know that in 1642 the New Hampshire Plantation came under the rule of the Massachusetts Bay and that the Rev. John Wheelwright, and others, removed to Wells, Maine; also, that Christopher Helme had a lawsuit in Piscataqua, Maine, in 1642, and that in 1644 the court ordered the money sent to him, probably to Warwick, Rhode Island [Libby's *Gen. Dict. of Maine & N. H.*, p. 324]. In 1643 Christopher Helme and Christopher Lawson, apparently cousins, had both left Maine and were located at Boston where the latter, by wife Elizabeth, had a son, Thomas, born 4 May 1643 [*Savage*]. The next we know of Christopher Helme is at Warwick, Rhode Island, where he is one of the witnesses to the Indian Submission Document signed 19 Apr. 1644.

Ever since 1868, when Col. Joseph Lemuel Chester published his account of "The Wentworth Family of England" [Register, vol. XXII, pp. 120–139] it has been generally known that Christopher Helme was the son of William Elmes, Gentleman, of Long Sutton, otherwise Sutton St. Mary, Lincolnshire, who married at Waltham, 1 Sept. 1619, as his third wife, Priscilla Wentworth, baptized at Waltham 14 June 1594, daughter of Christopher and Katherine (Marbury) Wentworth. Colonel Chester says "She was living in 1628, but died some time before 1648, and was buried in the parish church of Sutton St. Mary. Her husband married once or twice, but in his will, dated 21 Mar. 1648/9, directed to be buried near her, and bequeathed five pounds per annum to her son *Christopher*, if he were living . . ." [*ib.* p. 132].

Colonel Chester, and the three authorities on Maine and New Hampshire genealogy, Miss Sybil Noyes, Mr. Charles T. Libby and Mr. Walter Goodwin Davis, and other writers have accepted Christopher Helme as the son of William Elmes' third wife, Priscilla Wentworth, but Mr. Meredith B. Colket, Jr., in his *Marbury Genealogy*,† page 26, calls attention to Maddison's *Lincolnshire Pedigree*, which places Christopher Helme as the son of the first wife, and not the third, and questions his age at the signing of the Exeter Combina-

* Christopher Helme, the son of William Elmes, was always known in New England as "Helmes" or "Helme", which latter spelling is now generally used by his Rhode Island descendants.

The writer is indebted to his friend George Andrews Moriarty, F.S.A., for making available to him his vast store of original data on early Rhode Island settlers, without which this article would not have been so complete.

† *The English Ancestry of Anne Marbury Hutchinson and Katherine Marbury Scott* (1936), by Meredith B. Colket, Jr., with the collaboration of Edward N. Dunlop, A.B., M.S.

tion if he was the son of the third wife. This pedigree to which he refers is the source of our knowledge of William Elmes, his three wives, and his five children. Genealogists have accepted this pedigree as a source record for everything except the mother of Christopher, whom they assign as the son of the third wife instead of the first as given in the pedigree. Now if we accept nine-tenths of this pedigree as correct, we must also accept the other tenth unless we can prove it to be incorrect. Genealogists have been strangely silent on this point.

As this Harleian Society *Lincolnshire Pedigree*, edited by the Rev. Canon A. R. Maddison, M.A., F.S.A., and published in 1902, is so important, a critical study of the pedigree is necessary. The following is a *verbatim* copy:

"ELMES OF LONG SUTTON.

[MS. C. 23, Heralds' College. Dodsworth MS. 22, f. 55. Add. MS. 5822 (Cole).]

ARMS.—*Ermine, two bars sable, each charged with three elm-leaves or.*

John Elmes, from Northamptonshire, living at Long Sutton. = Mary, dau. of William Cockson of Long Sutton.

William Elmes of Long Sutton = Elizabeth, dau. of John Payne (or Baynes) of Southwell, co. Notts.

Grisill, dau. of Richard Spratt of Barney, co. Norfolk, bur. at Long Sutton. 1st wife = William Elmes of Long Sutton, aet. 35 in 1617; aet. 38 in 1619; bur. at Long Sutton. Will dated 21 March 1648–9; proved 3 April 1649. = Anne Smith, widow, of Reepham; mar. lic. 9 July 1617, aet. 30 2nd wife. = Priscilla, dau of ——— Wentworth of Waltham; bapt. there 14 June 1594; mar. lic. 28 Aug. 1619, aet. 24; bur. at Waltham 1 Sept. 1619 (?). 3rd wife.

Thomas Elmes, 1st son, aet. 30, 1634.

William Elmes, 2nd son, aet. 24, 1634.

Richard Elmes, aet. 21, 1634.

Christopher Elmes, doubtful if alive 21 March 1648–9.

Mary, living 1648–9. = ——— Gaps or (?) Gyps."

[Lincolnshire Pedigrees, vol. I, *Hart. Soc. Pub.*, vol. L (1902), p. 327.]

As to the importance of this pedigree as source evidence, every genealogist knows how untrustworthy Visitation Pedigrees often are, to say nothing of those compilations * with subsequent additions, and how frequently it is discovered that a man in producing his

* Canon Maddison was a careful and excellent antiquary and labored under great handicaps in editing the Lincolnshire Pedigrees for the Harleian Society. These pedigrees are the lifelong work of Mr. Arthur Staunton Larken, Richmond Herald, who died 1 April 1880. He was assisted by his brother-in-law William John, 6th Lord Monson, who in 1828 had married his sister. Both men visited many parishes in Lincolnshire and made extracts from the parish registers; in fact the nucleus of these Pedigrees is in the library of Burton Hall. Much of the data in these pedigrees is written

pedigree for the inspection of the heralds often forgot, omitted, or misnamed, his near kindred. This Elmes pedigree is no exception, and is easy to dissect. The framework is to be found in the great Lincolnshire Visitation of 1634 in the College of Arms, MS. C. 23,* to which has been added data from the Marriage License Records [Dodsworth MS. 22 f. 55] and from William Elmes' will [MS. 5822 (Cole)].

In the 1634 Visitation William Elmes entered only his three adult sons, Thomas, 1st son, age 30; William, 2nd son, age 24, and Richard, age 21, and neglected to enter his two minor children, as only too frequently happened. These two minor children, Christopher and Mary, are found mentioned in Christopher Elmes' will, dated 21 Mar. 1648/9, and have been added to his three children listed in the 1634 Visitation. If there had been only one wife the operation would have been simple, but here was a case with three wives, and the editor had no knowledge of which mother the children belonged to. When Editor Maddison put this pedigree together more than forty years ago, had he left off the line connecting these two children with the first three, as he should have done, his pedigree would have been perfectly truthful and would have saved American genealogists a great deal of trouble. But it must be remembered, however, that there are four books of 1350 pages of these pedigrees and that the editor was handling thousands of wills, pedigrees, and other documents, without much time to concentrate on any one particular pedigree, and the wonder is that there are not more mistakes. The other additions to the original 1634 Visitation Pedigree are easily seen. The entry under Christopher Elmes' name "doubtful if alive 21 March 1648–9" is the editor's interpretation of William Elmes' will leaving a bequest to his son Christopher "if he were living", meaning, of course, that he did not know where he was, consequently whether he was then living or dead. There is only one other Elmes

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from memory. Lord Monson had the useful gift of being able, after reading a will over a few times, to afterwards reproduce the chief substance in writing—a most useful gift in days when the slightest attempt to make notes of a will at Doctors' Commons was at once detected and stopped by vigilant officials, and when no Department of Literary Inquiry existed.

After the death of Lord Monson, in 1863, Mr. Larken added largely to the list of pedigrees. He also, on the establishment of the Literary Inquiry Department at Somerset House, made copious abstracts of an immense number of wills. On his appointment as Portcullis Pursuivant, in 1878, he had the enlarged facilities of search in the rich stores of the College of Arms. His previous labors now bore fruit, and he was able to clothe skeleton pedigrees with flesh by means of his parish register extracts and abstracts of wills. With his ample store of abstracts of wills, post-mortem inquisitions, and extracts from parish registers, he was enabled to correct mistakes and fill up what had before been a meagre outline. These Lincolnshire Pedigrees are the result, and the originals are now the property of the College of Arms, having been bought at Mr. Larken's death.

In 1874 Mr. Larken was persuaded to publish this most valuable genealogical work, even to use his own phrase, "with all its imperfections on its head". He writes that his children are busy copying out the pedigrees for the printer. This publishing venture was a failure, and the remaining years of his life were devoted to making the pedigrees more perfect.

This Larken copy, made for publication, came into the possession of Dr. George William Marshall, Rouge Croix, who allowed the Harleian Society to publish it. As editor it remained for Maddison to rewrite the worst-written pedigrees from beginning to end if he wished to ensure freedom from errors. He also took the liberty, besides condensing and altering, of introducing some pedigrees which were not in Mr. Larken's collection. Maddison had ample opportunities of searching the Lincoln Probate Office Wills, and made abstracts of more than 3000, which abstracts he used in these pedigrees [Maddison's Preface to *Lincolnshire Pedigrees*, pp. v–xii].

* The Lincolnshire Visitations for 1666, MS. D. 23, is also in the College of Arms.

family in the four volumes of Lincolnshire Pedigrees, and in this the name Christopher does not appear.

From the above discussion of this Maddison *Lincolnshire Pedigree* it is readily seen that there is no original source authority for definitely placing Christopher Helme as the son of William Elmes' first wife; that without authority he was placed in this position by the editor of this pedigree more than forty years ago on finding the name of this additional son in the will of his father. Therefore this pedigree is of no value in proving which one of the three wives was the mother of Christopher Helme. This clears the situation, in so far as this Lincolnshire Pedigree is concerned, and advances us a step ahead for we are now no longer in the position of having to prove that Christopher Helme *was not* the son of the first wife.

Two things that do stand out in this pedigree are—first, the fact that when William Elmes made his will he left a bequest to his son Christopher "if he were living", indicating clearly that he had been out of touch with him, and had been for some time. At the time this will was made there was a Christopher Helme in New England, who had been first at Boston; Exeter, New Hampshire, 1639; Piscataqua, Maine, 1642; Boston, 1643; Warwick, R. I., 1644, where he was living in 1648/9. If he was the missing son, it is not surprising that the father in England did not know whether or not he was living.

The second significant fact is the name Christopher—especially when we know that this was the name of Priscilla (Wentworth) Elmes' father, brother, two nephews, and of her son; also, that the Christopher Helme in Warwick, Rhode Island, named his first son William, and his second son Christopher, and that there were also Christophers in the following generations.

As William Elmes married his third wife, Priscilla Wentworth, on 1 Sept. 1619, it is quite clear that Christopher, if he was the son of Priscilla, could not have been born, at earliest, before the summer of 1620 and perhaps a year or so later, in which case he would have been perhaps 19 when he signed the Exeter Combination in 1639. Mr. Colket raises this point of age.

It may be pointed out, however, that even if he was under age Christopher Helme might have subscribed to the Exeter Combination as a member of the group of first settlers. His name, together with those of ten other young unmarried men who signed the Combination, does not appear in the allotment of Exeter lands, made between 1639–1643 [Register, vol. XXV, p. 60]. It may be noted that, occasionally, persons under age appear in the records in transactions which we usually associate with persons over 21. For example, Ichabod Sheffield of Portsmouth, Rhode Island, was baptized at Sudbury, co. Suffolk, on 23 Dec. 1630, but he was admitted a Freeman at Portsmouth on 10 July 1648 [Register, vol. LXXVII, pp. 193–4; Records of the *Town of Portsmouth*, pp. 37–38]. John[2] Browne, son of Chad, of Providence, Rhode Island, was granted a 25-acre lot of land on 19 Feb. 1645, when he was about 15 years of age [*Prov. Town Records*, vol. II, p. 29].

From the evidence it would appear that, irrespective of age, the obvious explanation of why neither Christopher Helme's nor Christopher Lawson's name appears in the allotment of Exeter lands is that they did not remain in the town, but had moved away. They were young unmarried men, and were probably in Wells, Maine, in 1642, and we know from *Savage* that they were both living at Boston early in 1643.

The order for the divisions of lands in Exeter was passed in 1639. The record in the original book is without date, and the next succeeding record in the book is 1643, so that the list is of landholders in Exeter, New Hampshire, at some date between 1639 and 1643 [REGISTER, vol. XXV, pp. 60, 61]. In all thirty-two landholders are listed. Eleven of the signers of the compact had no land assigned them, and the reason generally given for this is that they were single men. Of this original family group Rev. John Wheelwright is listed for 80 acres, and William Wentworth for 4 acres and 20 pools —2 shares; both remained in the "Eastward" country. We also know that in 1642 Massachusetts took over the government of New Hampshire Plantation and that Rev. John Wheelwright and his followers removed to Wells, Maine.

A study of this Massachusetts Bay migration to Exeter, New Hampshire, led by the exiled Rev. John Wheelwright, the coadjutor of Anne Hutchinson, at Boston, shows some interesting family connections, and adds another link in the chain of circumstantial evidence connecting the individuals with the Marbury, Hutchinson and Wheelwright families.

Hester Hutchinson (daughter of Edward Hutchinson, and sister of William Hutchinson of Boston, Portsmouth, R. I., &c.) married Rev. Thomas Rishworth of Laceby, co. Lincoln. Their son Edward, named for Edward Hutchinson, came to New England with Wheelwright and William Hutchinson, and he, too, signed the Exeter Combination. Styled here Edward Rishworth, gent; Removed with Wheelwright to Wells, Maine, in 1640; Agent of Gorges to grant land in Wells, between the Ogunquit and Kennebunk Rivers; Selectman, Hampton, N. H., 1651, and of York, Maine (at Cape Neddick) 1656/7. Recorder of the Province of Maine under Gorges and under Massachusetts [cf. REGISTER, vol. XX, p. 360; Libby's *Gen. Dict. Me. & N. H.*, p. 588].

Susanna, daughter of Edward, and sister of William Hutchinson, married at Alford, 21 Nov. 1623, Augustine Storre [REGISTER, vol. XX, p. 362]. Mr. Augustine Storre (son of Rev. Thomas Storre, vicar of Bilbsy, co. Lincoln, of which John Wheelwright was later vicar) was at Boston in 1638; was Assistant Ruler of Exeter in 1639, but soon vanishes, probably returning to England [cf. Libby's *Gen. Dict. Me. & N. H.*, p. 666].

Susanna, wife of Edward Hutchinson, and mother of William (husband of Anne Marbury), and of Hester Rishworth, Susanna Storre, and May Wheelwright, died at Wells, Maine, at the home of her son-in-law John Wheelwright, about 164[?] [Libby's *Gen. Dict.*

Me. & N. H., p. 367]. Her son Samuel also came over, was at Exeter and went to Rhode Island. Her son Edward, at Exeter, also went to Rhode Island, but soon returned to London [*ibid.*].

William Wentworth, Christopher Lawson, and Christopher Helme would appear to be grandchildren of Katherine (Marbury) Wentworth, who was sister of Rev. Francis Marbury, father of Katherine (Marbury) Scott, of Providence, Rhode Island, and of Anne (Marbury) Hutchinson, of Boston, whose husband, William, was the brother of Mary Hutchinson, the wife of Rev. John Wheelwright.

It seems quite clear that this William Wentworth, baptized at Alford, Lincolnshire, 15 March 1615/16; Christopher Lawson, born about 1616; and Christopher Helme, born perhaps about 1620, or a little later, belonged to this family group of Marbury and Hutchinson connections which settled at Exeter with Wheelwright, who besides being a family connection was perhaps their spiritual advisor in Lincolnshire, England. They appear to be all cousins, young men at the time of the signing of the Exeter Combination, and had probably come to New England with John Wheelwright and William Hutchinson, or had joined them here soon after their arrival [cf. REGISTER, vol. XX, pp. 359–67 and vol. XXII, *op. cit.*].

An inspection of the accompanying tabular pedigree chart shows that Katherine Marbury, who married Christopher Wentworth, had three children, each one of whom had a son named Christopher, and that two of these Christophers, and William, the brother of the other Christopher, were all in New England. This chart, besides clarifying these complicated family connections, is unique in showing that five of these families were armigerous, a record probably equaled in no other early New England family group.

SUMMARY

As the case stands today the preponderance of evidence points to Christopher Helme having been the son of Priscilla Wentworth, the third wife of William Elmes, as stated by Colonel Chester and other writers, and not of the first wife as stated by Maddison in the *Lincolnshire Pedigrees*.

His given name, Christopher, is the name of his father's third wife's father, brother, and two other relatives (also two other Christophers not shown on the chart), and Christopher of New England names his first son William, after his own father. The name Christopher Helme was not common in England, and there was only one of that name in early New England. In 1648/9 we find a William Elmes in England making his will and leaving a bequest to his son Christopher "if he were living", and at the same time we find a Christopher Helme in New England. There can be no question that the two are identical.

As for the time element, Priscilla Wentworth was married in 1619, and if her son Christopher was born shortly after, there was ample time for the Christopher Helme of Warwick, Rhode Island, to have had four small children, and to have been about 30 years of age when

CHART SHOWING THE FAMILY RELATIONSHIP OF NINE EXETER, N. H., SETTLERS. OF THIS FAMILY GROUP, SEVEN WENT TO RHODE ISLAND

WILLIAM MARBURY = AGNES LENTON

ARMS: *Silver on a fess engrailed gules three sheaves gold.*

EDWARD HUTCHINSON = SUSANNA ——— Buried at Wells, Maine, 164–

ARMS: *Party gules and azure a lion silver within an orle of crosslets gold.*

KATHERINE MARBURY = CHRISTOPHER WENTWORTH

Rev. FRANCIS MARBURY = BRIDGET DRYDEN

EDWARD RISHWORTH

Signed Exeter Combination 1639. Of Exeter, Wells, Hampton & York.

Assistant Ruler Exeter 1639.

Grantee of Indian deed at Exeter 3 Apr. 1638. Negotiated with Thomas Gorges for land in Wells, Me., 1641.

Went to Portsmouth, R. I.

Possibly at Exeter 1637/8. Went to Portsmouth, R. I.; then back to London.

All the above arms have been accepted by the Committee on Heraldry of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and recorded in its Roll of Arms:

1. *Marbury*, Record No. 81. 2. *Hutchinson*, Record No. 42. 3. *Wentworth*, Record No. 44. 4. *Helme*, Record No. 348. 5. *Scott*, Record No. 297.

The above chart is an interesting example of the natural tendency among armigeri to marry in their own social class, *i.e.*, into armigerous families.

William Marbury, the father of Rev. Francis, married Agnes Lenton, probably of Aldwinkle, co. Northampton, where William's father owned property, and where a Lenton family was prominent and had arms granted, 21 Mar. 1584—*Ar. a bend erm. betw. two dolphins embowed and bendwise or.* [*Burke*, p. 601.]

Rev. Francis Marbury married Bridget, daughter of John Dryden, Esq., of Canons Ashby, co. Northampton, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Cope, of Canons Ashby, co. Northampton, Knt., by his wife Bridget, daughter of Sir Edward Raleigh, of Farnborough, co. Warwick, Knt. Bridget Dryden's eldest brother, Sir Erasmus Dryden, was created a Baronet in 1619; arms—*Az. a lion rampant and in chief a sphere betw. two estoiles or.* [*Burke*, p. 302.] He was grandfather of John Dryden, the poet laureate, who was consequently Bridget Dryden's grandnephew [cf. REGISTER, vol. XX, pp. 365, 6; *Northamptonshire Families*, by Oswald Barron, F.S.A.].

Rev. Francis Marbury's daughter Katherine married Richard Scott, later of Providence, Rhode Island, who came of a long line of armigerous families [cf. *The Arms of Richard Scott*, by Richard LeBaron Bowen, REGISTER, vol. XCVI (1942)].

A granddaughter of Richard Scott's brother Frederick, Elizabeth Brand, married Sir Robert Kemp, Bart., of Ubbeston Hall, co. Suffolk [Davy's *Suffolk Collections*, British Museum MSS. Add. 19148, P.25640; cf. *The Arms of Richard Scott*, by Richard LeBaron Bowen, *R. I. Hist. Soc. Coll.*, vol. XXXII (1939), No. 3].

Rishworth is not listed in *Burke*, but a Rushworth family had arms—*Ar. a bend betw. an eagle displ. vert. in the sinister chief, and two pellets in the dexter base.* [*Burke*, p. 879.]

A Stoor family had arms—*Ar. a pale gu. on a canton az. a cinquefoil or.* [*Burke*, p. 977.]

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Buried at Wells, Maine, 164–

ARMS: *Party gules and azure a lion silver within an orle of crosslets gold.*

KATHERINE MARBURY = CHRISTOPHER WENTWORTH

ARMS: *Sable a chevron betw. three leopards' faces gold.*

Rev. FRANCIS MARBURY = BRIDGET DRYDEN

(1) WILLIAM = SUSANNA (CARTER) FLEMING
bapt. 1584

(2) ANNE = Rev. JOHN LAWSON
bapt. 28 Oct. 1585

(3) PRISCILLA = WILLIAM ELMES
bapt. 14 June 1594
m. (3) Sept. 1619 Long Sutton Lincolnshire

ARMS: *Ermine, two bars sable each charged with three elm leaves gold.*

(4) CHRISTOPHER
bapt. 27 Feb. 1596/7

Elder WILLIAM WENTWORTH
bapt. 15 Mar. 1615/16. Emigrated to New England. Signed Exeter Combination
Had land recorded at Exeter.

CHRISTOPHER
bapt. 4 June 1620; brd. 18 May 1621.

CHRISTOPHER LAWSON
b. abt. 1616. Emigrated to New England. Signed Exeter
No land recorded at Exeter.

CHRISTOPHER HELME
Emigrated to New England. Had land at Oyster River (Dover). Signed Exeter Com-
No land recorded at Exeter.

Disfranchised at Warwick, R. I., 23 Jan. 1648.

KATHERINE = RICHARD SCOTT
Whipped at Boston, 1658.
Emigrated to New England. At Providence, R. I., 1638.

ARMS: *Silver three catherine wheels sable in a border engrailed gules.*

ANNE = WILLIAM HUTCHINSON
Banished 1638.
Disarmed 1638. Signed the first compact at Portsmouth, R. I., 1638.

Capt. EDWARD, of Boston, Deputy from Kittery, Maine, 1670/1.

MARY = Rev. JOHN WHEELWRIGHT
Banished 1638. Signed Exeter Combination 1639.

Had land recorded at Exeter.

HESTER = Rev. THOMAS RISHWORTH

EDWARD RISHWORTH
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A Stoor family had arms—*Ar. a pale gu. on a canton az. a cinquefoil or.* [*Burke*, p. 977.]

he died before 19 Dec. 1650. Christopher Helme's first son, William, gave a quitclaim deed at Warwick in 1661 or 1662. If he was of age at that time and his father was born in 1620, it would allow forty-one or forty-two years for his father to have married and have a son 21 years old; a short time for two generations, but not impossible. On the other hand, William was probably not of age, for he was not admitted a freeman until ten years later, 1671, a long time for a young man to wait after attaining his majority.

Moreover, the fact that Christopher Helme, if he was the son of Priscilla Wentworth, must have been under 21 when he signed the Exeter Combination in 1639 is not an insurmountable difficulty, as we have shown that persons under 21 are quite often found engaging in public acts. Mr. George Andrews Moriarty points out that this was especially true if they had attained the age of 18, which in the Middle Ages, and for some time after, was the age at which persons became enabled to do many legal acts, and that only a century before the Commission granting Protectorate powers to Somerset, during the minority of Edward VI, terminated that minority at 18 years of age [*England under the Protector Somerset*, Pollard, pp. 35–36].

We thus find a group of men closely associated in New England, *i.e.*, William Wentworth, Christopher Lawson and Christopher Helme. In England we have a brother and two sisters, *i.e.*, William Wentworth, Sr., Anne (Wentworth) Lawson, and Priscilla (Wentworth) Elmes, children of Christopher and Katherine (Marbury) Wentworth, each of whom has a son named Christopher. We further find that William, Anne and Priscilla have two married cousins, daughters of their mother's brother, the Rev. Francis Marbury, *i.e.*, Katherine (Marbury) Scott and Anne (Marbury) Hutchinson, who together with their husbands and a minister, the Rev. John Wheelwright, the brother-in-law of one of the cousins, Anne (Marbury) Hutchinson, are not only in New England, but are together with the first group in Boston (see chart) and thereafter the first group, William Wentworth, Christopher Lawson and Christopher Helme go to Exeter with the Reverend Wheelwright. All the persons in both groups were banished from Massachusetts for their religious opinions, and one of them, Katherine (Marbury) Scott, was at a later date whipped at Boston for her religious views. We further find in Exeter, closely associated with Wheelwright, Wentworth, Lawson and Helme, two other men who belonged to the group in Boston, and who went with it to Exeter; to wit, Edward Rishworth, nephew of Wheelwright's wife, born Mary Hutchinson; and Augustine Storre, whose wife, Susanna Hutchinson, was also a sister of Mrs. Wheelwright. Lastly, a Hutchinson brother-in-law of Wheelwright, Samuel, went with him to Exeter, and perhaps also another brother-in-law Edward Hutchinson. There can be no doubt but what this is a family group. Perhaps it was the Marbury blood in Christopher Helme that was responsible for his being disfranchised for his contrary opinions at Warwick, Rhode Island, in 1648.

It must be noted that Canon Maddison in his Elmes pedigree states

that Priscilla Wentworth was married by license, dated 28 Aug. 1619, aged 24 years, and that she died and was buried at Waltham, where her father resided, on 1 Sept. 1619, but *queries* this latter entry. Mr. George Andrews Moriarty suggests that this burial entry refers to the first child of William and Priscilla, rather than to Priscilla herself, and that this view is strengthened by the common custom of the period for a bride to return to her father's house to have her first child, where she could have her mother's care. Colonel Chester distinctly states that Priscilla was alive in 1628, and that she died before 1648 when her husband made his will, and he further states that in that will Christopher is identified as the son of Priscilla. If this is so, it should settle the point as to his mother. Further research is needed to determine the exact wording of the will of William Helme, and also to determine who the Priscilla Elmes was who was buried at Waltham on 1 Sept. 1619. As the case now stands the preponderance of the evidence indicates that the mother of Christopher Helme was his father's third wife, Priscilla Wentworth.

From the original records it seems easy to reconstruct the course of events that drew Christopher Helme from Boston to Warwick, Rhode Island, in 1644. He had just returned from what was apparently, so far as he was concerned, an unsatisfactory venture to the "Eastward" with the exiled Rev. John Wheelwright.

On 12 Jan. 1643 Samuel Gorton, Richard Carder, and nine others had purchased Shawomet (Warwick) from Miantonomi, the Narragansett Chieftain, and for sustaining their rights in the purchase were made prisoners by the Massachusetts Bay authorities and taken to Boston. On 3 Nov. 1643 they appeared before the General Court charged with heresy and sedition and were sentenced to jail. Richard Carder was put in irons and confined in the jail at Roxbury, not to attempt to escape "on pain of death". Finally, on — March 1644, the Massachusetts Government was glad enough to discharge the Gortonists with sentence of banishment on pain of forfeiture of life for coming back.

Richard Carder, one of the supporters of the heresies of Anne Hutchinson and Rev. John Wheelwright, was disfranchised and banished from Massachusetts Bay in 1637, went to Rhode Island, where in 1638 he was one of the eighteen purchasers of the Island of Aquidneck. On 16 Mar. 1641 Richard Carder and three others were disfranchised and their names cancelled from the roll of freemen of Aquidneck. Richard Carder was apparently acquainted with Christopher Helme; at any rate, when Carder was released from the Roxbury jail on — March 1644 and returned to Warwick, Christopher Helme went with him, for the next month, on 19 Apr. 1644, we find them both witnesses to the Narragansett Indian Deed of "Voluntary and Free Submission". From that time on the two men were closely associated in the affairs of Warwick, and after Christopher Helme's death Richard Carder bought his home lot.

Later in the year 1644, Samuel Gorton, Randall Holden, and John Greene went to England to obtain redress for their wrongs suffered

from Massachusetts. They took with them the "Indian Submission", witnessed by Richard Carder, Robert Potter, and Christopher Helme, and presented it to Parliament, an account of which is found in the British Record Office, *Calendar of State Papers*, Colonial Series, vol. (1574–1660).

Christopher Helme died at Warwick, leaving a wife, Margaret, and four small children. There seems to be some uncertainty as to the exact time of his death. For more than one hundred years this date has been accepted as "before 19 Dec. 1650", as first stated by Staples in 1835 in *R. I. Hist. Coll.*, vol. II, note p. 160.

A search of the records shows the source of Staples' information. A quit-claim deed dated 13 Jan. 1661, given by "William Helmes of Warwick, eldest son and heir of Christopher Helmes and Margaret Helmes, late of Warwick, deceased", ratifies a purchase "made by Richard Carder, now of Warwick, from my Loving mother Margarett Helmes late of Warwick afore sayd deceased some eight yeares Since or ther abouts . . . which beareth date ye 19 December 1650" [Early Records, *Town of Warwick*, pp. 394, 5]. If this means his mother made the deed about eight years before, the date would be about 1653. In the early Warwick records is found a copy of the original deed, which reads: "This Deede made bearing date this 19 Day December in the year of our Lord Christ 16[torn] * . . . I Margaret Helme widow of Warwick by my Aturney Ralph Earle senr of Portsmouth on Road Iland have sould to Richard Carder . . ." [Original Records, *Town of Warwick*, p. 331].

1. Christopher[1] Helme (*William*, *William*, *John*) born at Long Sutton, otherwise Sutton St. Mary, co. Lincoln, England, about 1620, son † of William Elmes, died in 1648/9, and his third wife, Priscilla Wentworth, baptized at Waltham 14 June 1594, died before 1648, daughter of Christopher and Katherine (Marbury) Wentworth. Christopher Helme died at Warwick, Rhode Island, probably before 19 Mar. 1650.

He married Margaret ———, who died after 19 Dec. 1650, and before 13 Jan. 1661/2. It may be suggested that her maiden name was Rouse, as she had a son Rouse who was the ancestor of the Rhode Island South County family. Rouse was an early name on the Maine coast. There was a Nicholas Rouse of Wembury, co. Devon, England, who had a house at Casco in 1630; also other families of that name at York, Portsmouth, and Falmouth (Portland).

Christopher Helme (as the name is spelled today) was the progenitor of the Helme family in America, and emigrated to New England,

* In 1860 the Town of Warwick Committee employed Henry Rousmaniere to transcribe the town records. In 1926, some sixty-six years later, these original town records were again transcribed for the present printed Warwick Town Records. The Margaret Helme-Richard Carder deed, appearing on page 331 of the original book, in part 2, and on page 224 of the present printed copy of the original volume, is dated "19 day December 16[ ]." That was the way it was read in 1860, and the only way it can be read today. The paper containing the last two digits of the year date is missing today just as it was in 1860. Unfortunately, when the date was transcribed in 1926 it was read as "(56)" and so appears in the present printed Warwick Town Records, which, of course, is not correct.

† Lincolnshire Pedigrees, vol. I, *Harl. Soc. Pub.*, vol. L (1902), p. 327.

probably Boston, previous to 1639. In 1639, with Rev. John Wheelwright, he was one of the founders of Exeter, New Hampshire, where he signed the Combination. He was at Piscataqua, Maine, in 1642, where he had a law suit,* and the Court, in 1644, ordered the money sent to him. He was also at Oyster River (Dover, N. H.), where he owned 500 acres of land which was purchased from him by Valentine Hill, and sold by him in November 1649, then in the possession of Darby Field [*Suffolk Deeds*, vol. I, p. 106]. He was in Boston in 1643 [*Savage*].

Not much is known about the Warwick, Rhode Island, life of Christopher Helme. Austin in his *Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island* gives little about this Christopher, and nothing about him previous to 1647. The following is all that the writer can find about him in the original Warwick and other Rhode Island Records:

> On 19 Apr. 1644, Christopher Helme, Robert Potter, and Richard Carder were the three English witnesses to an act and deed of voluntary and free submission to the "chief Sachems, Princes or Governors of the Narragansett" unto the Government and protection of that Honorable State of Old-England. The Indians signing were PESSICUS, his mark, chief Sachem and successor to MIANTONOMI; the mark of that ancient CONANICUS, "Protector of that late deceased Mantonomi, during the time of his non age"; the mark of MIXAN, son and heir of that abovesaid Conanicus; and the marks of AUWASHOOSSE, and TOMANICK, two of the chief councellors of Sachem Pessicus [*R. I. Hist. Soc. Coll.*, vol. II (1835), pp. 158–160].
>
> [No date] "Ordered that Mr. Potter be in Mr. Helmes rome to be layer out of the house lots . . ." [Early Records, *Town of Warwick*, p. 5].
>
> On 1 May 16[ ] "Richard Carder being an Inhabitant of the Towne of Warwicke & having his lot granted to him being about three acres more or lesse bounding Southwest upon Christopher Helme . . . Christopher Helme being received a free inhabitant of the Towne of Warwicke & having a parcell of land & confirmed for a house lott containing six acres . . . bounded Northeast on Richard Carder . . ." [Early Records, *Town of Warwick*, pp. 321, 322].
>
> "Having received our orders (this 8th August) [?1647] we have chosen [among other town officers] Chri Helmes: Sergant" [Early Records, *Town of Warwick*, p. 77].
>
> On 13 Aug. 1647 —"That Ezekiel Holman, Rufus Barton, Jo: Warner & Christopher Helmes are appointed to lay out lots & hiewayes, convenient for the Towne" [Early Records, *Town of Warwick*, p. 78].
>
> "At a towne Metteinge, 23 Jan. 1648, These are to testify that I Christopher Helme doe bind my selfe to answer all damages y^t may arise by the ocation of Receaving Robert Andrews † Againe into my Custody after the towne had sent him back to his master & he escaped from ye messenger . . ." [Early Records, *Town of Warwick*, p. 299].
>
> He is the fourteenth signer in a list commencing 23 Jan. 1648, and the first under date of 10 Nov. 1648, of what is apparently a list of inhabitants totaling 48 [Early Records, *Town of Warwick*, p. 73].

* Libby's *Gen. Dict. Maine & N. H.*, p. 324.

† This may be the Robert Andrew of Rowley Village (Boxford), Essex County, Mass., where he was a man of property and position. He also had land in the neighboring town of Topsfield as early as 1654, where as Goodman Andrews he took the oath of allegiance 6 May 1658. In 1661 he was in Rowley; married Grace ———, who d. 25 Dec. 1702. In his will, dated 16 May 1668, proved 2 July 1668, he directs that he be buried at Topsfield. His son Joseph was ancestor of John Albion Andrew, the celebrated Governor of Massachusetts during the Civil War (1861–1865) [*Topsfield Town Records; Essex Quarterly Court Files; Andrews Genealogy*].

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"23rd January 1648 Warwick Chri: Helme: having thretened the Towne in general for going about to undermine the Towne his Act testifies the truth of his threats:

"Wee being orderly met in a towne meting doe agree and Conclude yt the said Chri: Helme is wholy deprived of all rite and Intrest in this plantation but only ye wh hee hath in present posetion apropreated, but only ye wh the Towne doth freely condesend to, by permition till hee cane mak forther provition wh wee conclud to bee by the first day of May 1649 and after that day prefixed hee is not to make use of anny comon privilige but as a transgreser liable to anser for contempt therein

"Christopher Helme you are found to [illegible] in ye some of 50 to bee levied in lands goods & chattells to answer at our Next Court of trials held in this Collony to such things as shall then and there bee charged upon you & in the meane time to stand in good behavior towards all his maety Leage people this 30th of Jan 1648

"You [ ] are to become bound to the State of England in the Asumset of tenn pound, to bringe forth the Boddy of Robert Wascote to personall apearance at the next court held at Warwicke" [Early Records, *Town of Warwick*, p. 307].

At the organization of the Colony of the Province of Providence Plantations held at Newport 20–21 May 1647, at which John Coggeshall was chosen the first president under Roger Williams' charter of 1643/4, Warwick, although not mentioned in the charter, was admitted to have the same privileges as Providence. Six commissioners represented each of the towns of Providence, Newport, Portsmouth and Warwick. There is no record of the names of the Warwick commissioners at this first meeting of the General Assembly, but there is a record of Randall Holden of Warwick being elected assistant. Christopher Helme was an important man in Warwick, for at the General Court of Election held at Providence the following year, 16 May 1648, at which William Coddington was elected president, he was the fifth member of the six Warwick Commissioners, of which John Smith,* the chairman, was elected president of the Colony the following year, succeeding William Coddington, who never qualified for the office. [Bartlett's *R. I. Colony Records*, vol. I, p. 210.]

On 23 Jan. 1648 Christopher Helme was deprived of all right and interest in the plantation (see *ante*). Apparently his wife was appointed an Inhabitant in his place, as seen by the following record:

"Ordered 8 Aug. 1648, that for Divers considerations moving the Towne there unto they have accepted of Mrs. Helme to bee an Inhabitant & to have equall priviledge with the rest of the Inhabitants notwithstanding any former order to the contrary" [Early Records, *Town of Warwick*, p. 1].

At the Court "houlden at Warwick from May 26 to the . . . (1649)":

"Ralph Erle being Presented for certayne charges in Speeches; traverseth his inditement and putteth himself uppon the tryall the verdict of the Jury is not guilty

* Cf. *The Providence Oath of Allegiance and its Signers, 1651/2*, by Richard LeBaron Bowen, published (1943) by the *Society of Colonial Wars of the State of Rhode Island & Providence Plantations.*

"for Christopher helmes John Greene put out & Mr. Dyer put in fore man

"Christopher Helmes upon the bill presented concerning the death of Rufus Bartin, traverseth his inditement and putteth himself upon the tryall the verdict of the Jury is we finde hime not guilty.

"Christopher helmes upon the bill presented concerning the pretended purchase of some of Warwick land traversseth his inditement and putteth himself upon the tryall the verdict of the Jury is guilty and fine given forty shillings to be payed into the publick tresurie with in xx Days of the next Session of Gene Assemblie; Judgment granted and execution thereupon for the charges of the courte.

"John Warner of Warwick beinge called upon to answer to some charges by him made against Mr. John Smith President it was refferred to Mr. Balstone & Mr. Houldinge & Phillip Shearman to and either of them being bound in an Assumpsit of 100 li apeice to stand to the end these three made" [*R. I. Court Records*, vol. I, pp. 6, 7].

At this same General Court of Trials held at Warwick, 26–29 May 1649, Christopher Helme was the sixth member of a jury composed of "James Barker, Thomas Lawton, Stukly Wascot, ——— Osband, Tho: Gorton, Christo: Helmes, Ralph Erle, [Richard] Harcut, [Richard] Carder, Robert Potter, [Thomas] Thorniciaft, ——— Greene" [*R. I. Court Records*, vol. I, p. 7].

At a town meeting, 2 Oct. 1653, "Whereas it hath been formerly unamansly agreed upon that the necke of land joyning to the creeke next that lott granted Mr. Helmes should never bee impropriated. Now we find the Recordes defective herein, therfore we do now order that it shall never bee impropriated but left for a place for landinge for the whole Towne" [Early Records, *Town of Warwick*, p. 133].

"This Deede made bearinge date this 19 day Desember in the yeare of our lord Christ 16[—] Witnesseth that I Margaret Helme widow of Warwicke by my Aturney Ralph Earle senr of Portsmouth on Road Iland have sould to Richard Carder of Warwick that house & lot containinge six acres more or lesse lyinge & beinge in the foresayd towne of Warwick Adioyninge to the house lot of the foresayd Richard Carder Southwest to have & to houlde the sayd house & lot with all the fencinge stuffe theron & wee the foresayde Margarett & Ralph doe acquit our selves of all our right & title therein both of us our Aires or Assignes for ever I say wee the foresayd Margaret & Ralph have sould & delivered the foresayd house & lot unto Richard Carder to bee unto him & his heires for ever firme without molestation in witness wherof wee the sayd Ralph & Margaret doe set to our hands & seales

Sealed and Delivered in the
Present of
Randall Houldon — Ralph Earell
Richard Osborne — Marget Helme"

"The Words South West was Enterlined before the Sealing"
[Early Records, *Town of Warwick*, p. 331].

The town "Layd out, 9 Nov. 1660, to Richard Carder for Mr. Helmes his children six akers layinge on a little necke beyond the horse necke" [Early Records, *Town of Warwick*, p. 372].

"Itt is ordrd, 30 Apr. 1667, by ye purchasers of Shawomett neck that a hygh way of two rodde wide be Layd out A Crose ye Lotts in ye Necke so fare as ye land layed out to Christopher helmes his children on ye west side of ye swampe . . ." [Early Records, *Town of Warwick*, p. 450].

Children * born at Warwick:

i. WILLIAM,[2] of Warwick and Kings Town, R. I. He took the oath of fidelity at Kings Town 20 May 1671.

"This Indenture made ye 13th day of January: 1661: in the 13th yeare of ye Raine of our Souvraine lord Charles the Second of England ffrance and Ireland king &c witneseth that I William Helmes of warwicke in the Colony of Providenc Plantations in new england being Eldest Sonn and heire to Christofer Helmes and Margaret Helmes late of The Towne of warwick in the Colony afornamed nowe deceased I do by this Present Ratifie Confirme and alowe of A Certaine Purchase made by Richard Carder now of warwicke in the Towne and Collony aforenamed from my Lovinge mother Margarett Helmes late of warwicke afore sayd deceased Some Eight yeares Since or ther abouts, allso I do herby Ratifie and allow of ye deed of Sale made by my Mother Margrett Helmes aforsayd and her cartine Aturny Ralfe Earle ye elder of Poritsmouth in the Colony of Providenc Plantations aforsayd, which beareth date ye nineteenth day of Desember: 1650: father more I doe I doe acknowledge my selfe welle satisfied Contented and Payd by Richard Carder aforsayd for the six acors of land more or lese in the fore sayd deed mentioned together with the house and all apurtenances in the fore sayd deed mentioned, and I do herby thes present for me my heires Executors

"Administrators and Asignes warant the for Sayd deed of Purchase together with the Purchase it selfe to Richard Carder aforenamed his heires Executors Administrators and Asignes for ever in witnes wher of I heave her unto Set my hand and Seale the day and yeare first above written

Sealed and delivered in the:
Present of us whose names:
are underwriten the word
me over the 24th line being
Placed there before the
Ensealing herof
Edmund Calverly
Randall Houlden
John Riss"

The marke of
William Helmes

[Early Records, *Town of Warwick*, pp. 394, 5].

ii. CHRISTOPHER, Kings Town, R. I. He took the oath of fidelity 19 May 1671; freeman 1673.

iii. SAMUEL, freeman Kings Town, 1673.

iv. ROUSE, d. 17 May 1712; m. MARY ———, d. 9 May 1712. He was of Kings Town, R. I. At a General Court of Trials held for the Colony of Providence Plantations, begun at Warwick 14 Oct. 1662, the following bill of indictment was presented by William Harris to the grand jury against Rowse Helmes, and ten others, "for Entering forceably upon his lands and moeing his meadows."

"Whereas William harris did Indict for forceably Entrey thes severall parsones . . . and Did indict them in his owne name and yett the grand Jury found the bill and they the Indicted partyes Traversed the Indictment and put themselves to Triall by ther peares and a Jury impanelled upon them; but after the Jury weare sworne to bring in A treue verdict the persones Indicted pleaded the Elegallity of the bill of Indictment because not Exhibited in his maiestyes name not with standing which plea the Jury found them guilty and it seemeth Did not mind that plea of waight Saficient to wave such a verdict wherupon the presoners take themselves illegally condemed and Desier that

* The data for these children, with additions are taken from Austin's *Gen. Dict. of Rhode Island* p. 322.

the Court will susspend Judgment aganst them: being his maieste is not mentioned to be the offended party or that ther proceeds wear Contrary to his Crowne and Dignyty but Contrary to the Complaynnant william harris his minde: The Court are not soe Cleare to give Judgment one the verdict. Especially Conseder-inge that the parsones Crave the favour of the Court . . . Either to be Cleared or Condemned" [*R. I. Court Records*, vol. II, pp. 11, 12].

He took oath of fidelity 19 May 1671; on 28 May 1671 he took Thomas Marshall as an apprentice with the consent of the boy's father and mother, Edward and Mary Marshall of Warwick.

On 29 July 1679 he and forty-one other inhabitants of Narragansett petitioned the King praying to put an end to those differences about the government; on 27 Oct. 1684 he took a receipt from Thomas Marshall whose term of apprenticeship had ended; taxed 9s. 11d. on 6 Sept. 1687; grand jury, 1687.

On 30 Jan. 1692 he sold James Carder, of Warwick, 26 acres, 12 acres, a whole right of undivided land, and a right in Commons, and all other interests there, for £50.

He made his will 14 Mar. 1711, proved 9 Jan. 1712. Bequests to sons Samuel, Rouse, and William; to wife; to daughters Elizabeth Hazzard, Mary Potter, and Mercy Watson. Executors, wife Mary and son Rouse. Overseers, Thomas Eldred, John Eldred, William Knowles, and Ephraim Bull.

Inventory £284 17s. 1d., viz.: 77 sheep, 37 lambs, 4 oxen, 5 cows and calves, 2 three years, 5 two years, 4 yearlings, horse, 5 mares, 4 colts, negro Jack £30, Nan £15, Stillyards, money, scales, gin, 4 swine, etc.

On 21 Oct. 1713 a declaration was signed by Mary Coggeshall and Ezekiel Bull that Rouse Helme's wife died before him and that he considering his wife's care of his son William that she would have taken, desired her part given to his son Rouse.

Children:

1. *Samuel*,[3] d. in 1728; m. Dorcas ———, d. before 1727. Will dated 3 Sept. 1727, proved 12 Feb. 1728. Executor son Christopher. Mentions sons Christopher, John, Samuel; William, £70 at age; son Thomas, £70 at age; to daughters Mary Perry, Dorcas Helme, Mercy Helme. The Town Council to be guardian to the young children; William and Thomas to learn to read, write, and cipher, and to be put to a trade; Mercy to learn to read the bible.

   Children, born at South KingsTown, R. I.: (1) Mary,[4] b. 14 June 1700. (2) Christopher, b. 30 Mar. 1702. (3) John, b. 11 Feb. 1704. (4) Samuel, b. 21 Oct. 1706. (5) Dorcas, b. 14 June 1710. (6) William, b. 12 Mar. 1714. (7) Thomas, b. 3 Jan. 1718. (8) Mercy.

2. *Elizabeth*, d. before 1727; m. Stephen Hazard, d. 29 Sept. 1727, son of Robert and Mary (Brownell) Hazard.

   Children (surname *Hazard*): (1) Mary, b. 20 July 1695. (2) Hannah, b. 20 Apr. 1697. (3) Susanna, b. 20 Apr. 1699. (4) Stephen, b. 29 Nov. 1700. (5) Robert, b. 12 Sept. 1702. (6) Samuel, b. 29 June 1705. (7) Thomas, b. 28 July 1707. (8) Elizabeth. (9) Sarah.

3. *Margaret*, b. in 1679; d. before 1727; m. Ichabod Potter, d. 1730, son of Ichabod and Martha (Hazard) Potter.

   Children (surname *Potter*): (1) Ichabod. (2) Rouse, b. 13 Feb. 1703. (3) Thomas. (4) William, b. 4 Mar. 1709. (5) Margaret, b. 11 Oct. 1714.

   Mercy, m. Samuel Watson, d. after 1740, son of John and Dorcas (Gardiner) Watson.

   Child (surname *Watson*): (1) William.

5. *Rouse*, d. 28 Aug. 1751; m. 21 July 1709, Sarah Niles, d. after 1748, dau. of Nathaniel and Sarah (Sands) Niles. Deputy 1714, 1717, 1720, 1722; Assistant 1717, and 22 years from 1723 to 1744; clerk of the Assembly 1720; Judge of the Superior Court for over twenty years; in February 1723 he and Francis Willett were appointed by Assembly to draw a copy of all the records belonging in South Kingstown from the records of the late Kings Town; on 26 Nov. 1723 he and Francis Willett petitioned for their pay for transcribing 1230 pages, the towns of North and South Kingstown having refused to pay. Will dated 15 Apr. 1748, proved 9 Sept. 1751; Executors sons James and Rouse.

   Children: (1) James,[4] b. 7 May 1710. (2) Sands, b. 21 Aug. 1711. (3) Rouse, b. 11 Feb. 1713. (4) Nathaniel, b. 17 Dec. 1714. (5) Benedict, b. 17 Feb. 1717. (6) Simeon, b. 15 Dec. 1718. (7) Benedict, b. 3 Oct. 1720. (8) Silas, b. 20 May 1724. (9) Sarah, b. 16 May 1727. (10) Jonathan, b. 14 Oct. 1729. (11) Oliver, b. 17 June 1731. (12) Samuel, b. 3 June 1734.

6. *William.*